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## ABSTRACT

### **Climate Change, Inuvialuit Heritage, and Archaeology on Banks Island, NWT**

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The Ikaahuk Archaeology project aims to work with the community of Sachs Harbour to combine Inuvialuit knowledge and archaeological knowledge to better understand the human history of Banks Island, Northwest Territories, Canada. As part of this project, my PhD research examines how perceptions of the past and archaeology vary among community members to better understand how archaeology can best complement existing heritage management practices. This research seeks to help build an inclusive archaeology project that serves community interests and needs, while addressing community concerns. Community opinions of archaeology are diverse ranging from supportive and engaged with archaeological research, to against archaeological work being carried out on the island. Opposition to archaeological research stems from Inuvialuit traditions of not disturbing old sites, as well as the non-inclusive ways previous archaeologists working in the area conducted research.

Throughout my research it has become apparent that climate change is affecting Inuvialuit heritage on Banks Island. Changes in sea ice, land, and animal movements are affecting the ways community members travel on the land and hunt, ultimately creating an obstacle for passing down Inuvialuit heritage and traditional and historical knowledge. Rapidly eroding coastlines are destroying archaeological sites, while melting permafrost is causing previously preserved organic artifacts to decompose. Effects of climate change are shifting heritage management practices and the way some community members feel about archaeological research. This paper explores the various effects climate change is having on community knowledge, heritage, and traditions, as well as archaeological materials and the ways in which community members and archaeologists are attempting to adapt to and minimize these effects in order to preserve Inuvialuit heritage.